

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03855 100650Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 OES-02 DLOS-02 PM-03 DODE-00

/042 W

-----100916Z 109179 /15

R 100610Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3790

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3855

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK - JAPAN RELATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR MAY 9, REFLECTED GUARDED OPTIMISM REGARDING PROSPECTS FOR DIET PASSAGE CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. NISHIYAMA RETURNED LATE LAST WEEK FROM CONSULTATIONS IN TOKYO WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, FOREIGN MINISTER HATOYAMA, LDP SECRETARY GENERAL OHIRA AND OTHER SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS. HE SAID FUKUDA AND OHIRA WERE DETERMINED, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO SECURE DIET PASSAGE OF AGREEMENT.

2. NISHIYAMA WAS TOLD BY LDP SOURCES THAT GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO EXTEND DIET IN ORDER TO PERMIT AUTOMATIC PASSAGE OF AGREEMENT, BUT WILL NOT SHOW ITS HAND UNTIL LAST MINUTE. ON OTHER HAND, NISHIYAMA IS CONCERNED THAT REQUISITE COOPERATION OF SPEAKERS OF BOTH UPPER AND LOWER HOUSES NEEDED FOR DIET EXTENSION MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, NISHIYAMA HAS URGED PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF FUKUDA'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS ON DIET TACTICS. HE
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HAS, HOWEVER, AVOIDED FORMAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE SUCH SESSIONS INEVITABLY GENERATE FURTHER PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST JAPAN.

3. NISHIYAMA IN GENERAL WAS CRITICAL OF RECENT KOREAN TACTICS ON ROK-GOJ ISSUES, PARTICULARLY CASTIGATING CLOSURE OF YOMIURI OFFICE, SINCE YOMIURI REPORTER STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST

FRIENDLY TO ROK. HE SAID THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT FAILS TO COMPREHEND POLITICAL PROBLEMS OR IN FACT GENERAL POSTWAR SITUATION IN JAPAN. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT WE HAVE VERY SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES. NISHIYAMA WAS SYMPATHETIC TO KOREAN COMPLAINTS ON TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN AND THOUGHT GOJ SHOULD PERMIT MUCH HIGHER LEVEL OF KOREAN CONSUMER GOODS IMPORTS.

4. NISHIYAMA PERSONALLY EXPECTS TO LEAVE KOREA AND RETIRE FOLLOWING CLOSE OF DIET SESSION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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